

Date

Volume **

Number **

SPARK GAP M A R C

New Mailing Labels are "Just what the Doctor Ordered".

Have you ever heard a brilliant idea and said; "Now why didn't I think of that"? Fortunately, for the Mid-State ARC one member did. And, now you too can benefit from his thoughtful suggestion. All it takes are a few used ham radio magazines, a few labels and a doctor's office to cure curiosity about amateur radio. Club membership chairman, Ernest Clark-KB9SKI, says we can easily spread the word about amateur radio by simply attaching club information labels to old ham radio magazines.

Don't wait to get sick. Make a house call on your favorite doctor and leave an amateur radio magazine on the waiting room table. Each label shows the club address, webpage address and telephone number for any interested party. Ernest will have dozens of these self-sticking labels ready at the March meeting.

-W8ISH

Lightening Round...

They say lightening never strikes twice in one place. If you believe that theory then you'll want to attend a lightening and grounding presentation May 11th. The Indianapolis Radio Club is inviting area clubs to share in this special program being given by one of Cinergy's foremost lightening and grounding experts. The official time and place will be announced in the April issue of Spark Gap.

-W8ISH

As a reminder... Dues for the year 2001 are due by no later than the March Meeting! Please see the Club Treasurer, Vernon Gill, for more information.

Date

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Membership

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is based in Franklin, Indiana. Membership is open to all amateur radio operators and other interested persons.

Club meetings are conducted on the third Saturday of each month in the training room of the Johnson County Emergency Operations Center at 1100 Hospital Road in Franklin, IN.

Membership dues are \$18.00 per year for full members. Other types of membership are available.

Amateur Radio Operator License testing is offered following the club meeting during the months of March through November.

The club maintains an open repeater on the 2-meter band at 146.835 MHz. Each full member has access to the repeater and autopatch.

Membership dues payment and change of address should be mailed to the club treasurer at the address listed below.

Newsletter

The Spark Gap is the monthly club newsletter. Articles and information that would be of interest to the club members are welcome. Information may be submitted by E-mail or by mailing to the club address listed below.

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(KB9UJE)

Larry Turner
(KB9PWN)

Other

Other

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(WA9ZET)

Appointments

Appointments

Pending

Pending



MARC, PO Box 836, Franklin, IN 46131

A SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB OF THE ARRL



IN LIKE A LION OUT LIKE A LAMB?

March 5-11 Severe Weather Awareness Week activities took place across Indiana. On Wednesday March 7th, the National Weather Service conducted the statewide tornado drill, with only a few sirens not working properly. Because the weather of late has been anything but severe, I know it can be difficult to get into the "severe weather frame of mind." A look back at a few spring weather events that changed lives forever in Indiana, quickly reminds us why these preparations and drills are so important.

APRIL 11, 1965:

The Palm Sunday outbreak that produced 11 tornadoes in 20 Indiana counties. Unfortunately this killed 137 people. This was the deadliest Indiana outbreak ever.

APRIL 3, 1974:

The largest tornado outbreak in U.S. history (148 tornadoes, across 13 states and Southern Canada). In Indiana 21 tornadoes touched down in 39 counties, killing 47 people.

JUNE 2, 1990:

Indiana's largest tornado outbreak ever, with 37 tornadoes twisting across 31 counties and killing eight people.

One important fact to point out between the outbreaks of 1965, 1974 & 1990 is the difference in the loss of life. Although the 1990 outbreak spawned more than three times the amount of tornadoes than that of the Palm Sunday event...loss of life was minimized to eight, nearly 130 less than 1965

This dramatic improvement in safety can be attributed to geostationary satellites, Doppler radar, and computer upgrades at the National Weather Service. Warning time for a tornado has jumped from 2 to 5 minutes in the 70s, to nearly 15 to 25 minutes currently. Advances in technology, however, will never take the place of a human, i.e., someone in the field with a visual on the storm to confirm whether a storm is severe/tornadic or not. Because of this, amateur radio operators need to be commended for their role during and after severe weather.

From the Skywarn Network offering storm strength and location to the NWS, to providing communication after a power-stopping storm...you are just as responsible for saving lives. All meteorologists would be foolish not to thank you for your hard work.

**-SEAN ASH, METEOROLOGIST
WISH-TV**

At no time is freedom of speech more precious than when a man hits his thumb with a hammer.

Marshall Lumsden

Some people walk in the rain, others just get wet.

Roger Miller

Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2001 Introduced

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2001 is now officially HR 817. Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida introduced the bill on March 1 in the US House of Representatives. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, visited the Congressman's office to thank him personally for his continuing interest in protecting amateur allocations.

The measure has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The bill seeks to amend the Communications Act of 1934 by requiring the FCC to make no reallocation of primary Amateur and Amateur-Satellite allocations, diminish any secondary Amateur and Amateur-Satellite allocations, or make additional allocations within amateur allocations that would substantially reduce their utility without also providing equivalent replacement spectrum.

Early this month, a contingent of ARRL officials went to Washington for a three-day round of visits with senators and congressmen and their staff members. Haynie and Harrison also visited the FCC, where they spoke with Peter Tenhula, Chief of Staff to FCC Chairman Michael Powell.

Haynie was upbeat about the impact of the visits. "Once again we had an opportunity to tell our story about Amateur Radio and the important function it serves, especially in public service and education," he said.

-ARRL Letter, Submitted by KF9LQ

LF-to-LF Transatlantic Amateur Contact is Completed

Amateur Radio history was made this month when amateurs in Canada and the UK completed what appears to be the first two-way transatlantic Amateur Radio exchange on 136 kHz. Larry Kayser, VA3LK, and Lawrence "Laurie" Mayhead, G3AQC, managed the LF feat using extremely slow CW that featured 90-second-long dits and 180-second-long dahs. The two-way contact took two weeks to complete.

"We are the first to do a two-way QSO on LF across the North Atlantic as far as I am concerned," Kayser said. "We are the ones who put the stakes in the ground; others will build on what we have done."

The VA3LK-G3AQC contact began February 5 and was completed February 19 with the reception and confirmation of VA3LK's report by G3AQC. Both stations used spectrographic software and computers for receiving. The participants agreed in advance to a "firewall" between them for the duration of the contact and that all QSO information was exchanged over the LF radio link.

The UK has an amateur band at 136 kHz. While Canada has not yet authorized general Amateur Radio operation on 136 kHz, Kayser and a few other Canadian amateurs have received special authorization to conduct LF experiments there.

G3AQC and VA3LK were using a combination of commercial and surplus equipment at their respective stations. G3AQC estimated his effective radiated power at 350 mW, while VA3LK said he might have been at the 5 W ERP level.

In October 1998, the ARRL petitioned the FCC to create two amateur LF allocations at 135.7-137.8 kHz and 160-190 kHz. The FCC has not yet acted on the request.

-ARRL Letter, Submitted by KF9LQ

Date

Upcoming Digital Demo

The next Digital Mode Practice Session is tentatively set for Saturday March 24th. The State Emergency Management Agency will be testing their RACES preparedness using the latest digital modes of APRS, PSK31 and Slow Scan TV from 09:30-11:30am. Their primary focus will be on 40-meter voice, PSK31, 2 meter APRS and 440mhz voice. Event coordinator, Chuck Crist-W9IH, expects over a half dozen central Indiana counties to participate. The Johnson county radio room still needs one Pentium grade computer to be fully operational. See Chuck Moser-KB9TEO if you can attend.

-W8ISH

Can you tell the difference?

Answers on the back page!



-KF9LQ

Repeater News

With spring (and with it Skywarn) fast approaching, I would like to add a weather radio feature to the repeater. This feature, seen on other area repeaters, allows the audio from the NWS radio station to be played over the repeater during weather emergencies. This could be a lifesaver during severe weather. In addition, the alert feature of the weather radio could be used to send an audible alert to users of the repeater. This would allow anyone monitoring to know if a Watch or Warning was issued by NWS.

Does anyone have a spare weather radio they would be willing to donate to this project? If so, please contact the repeater trustee at (317)859-9194 or trustee@midstatehams.org.

-KB9UJE

**Answers to the puzzle on
Page 5**

1-TREE

2-BALL

3-SIGN

4-CAP

5-FLAG

6-BUTTON'S ON SWEATER

Did you find them all?

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St., then north on Wittfield to 1217 (RED MAILBOX)



RICH KB9VXM AND CHUCK KB9TEO TAKE
DOWN THE BEAM AT DAVE WENDT'S
KA9OOH HOME.